THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Though the overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for regular serving of wholesome, cooked mid day meal in every eligible school, EGS/AIE Centres lies with the State Government/UT Administration, the Central Government has been continuously urging the State Governments to

- ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment
- food items are stored in dry and safe places
- drinking water is adequately made available
- cooks are properly trained in adopting hynienic habits

Besides, States have also been urged to involve the parents and community members to supervise the cooking and serving mid-day meal to children.

(b) According to the Guidelines on the Mid-Day Programme issued by the Department, cooked mid day meal of 450 calories and 12 grams of protein is provided to the children studying in classes I-V in Government (including Local Body) and Government Aided Schools and Centres run under EHS/AIE. The nutritional norm at upper primary Vidayalaya Mansi Gharari and Middle School Araiya of Khagria District, Mansi is stage of education *i.e.* classes VI-VIII is 700 calories and 20 grams of protein.

(c) and (d) Certain instances of supplying of sub-standard food to children in some States have come to the notice of the Government. The Government of Bihar has reported that complaints have been received from the Rohtas District, Shiv Sagar Block and from Khagria District, Mansi Block. In the case of Rohtas district, after enquiry, action has been taken and the mid-day meal is being implemented under the supervision of the local village committee. The complaint relating to Primary Vidayalaya Mansi Gharari and Middle School Araiya of Khagria District, Mansi is under examination of the State Government.

Reduction in out of school children

946. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report, based on the analysis of data collected from 562 out of 584 districts, has found that there is a decline in the number of out of school children;

(b) if so, whether the report also finds tht more girls are now going to schools;

(c) whether the SC and ST children are still less for enrolment in the schools; and

(d) if so, whether Government has considered the survey report and if so, what steps Government proposes to take to improve the position further, and also encourage SC and ST children to enroll more in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has made considerable progress in enhancing access to elementary education. As per the State reports, the number of out of school children has declined from 4.4 crore in 2001 to 75.97 lakh as on March, 2007.

The enrolment of girls, SC and ST children has increased at the elementary level of education. As per Selected Educational statistics 2004-05 gross enrolment ratios for girls, SC,

ST and all students in the elementary stage in the year 2004-05 are 89.9%, 98.8%, 102.4% and 93.5% respectively.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for strengthening of school infrastructure, more access to schools, cenrtain educational incentives, additional support through National Programme of Education of Girls at Elementary Level and residential facilities at upper primary level under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme. Further, to target SC and ST children, interventions, *inter-alia*, free text books, remedial teaching and innovationa are provided. The Mid Day Meal Scheme provides for cooked meals to school children, helping in improving retention.

Chairman of National Book Trust

947. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the term of Chairman, National Book Trust has expired;

(b) if so, whether Government has started the process of selection of a new Chairman or is planning to extend the term of the present Chairman; and

(c) what are the selection processes for Chairman and Director of the said organization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The term of the present Chairman has been extended until further orders. There are no Recruitment Rules for the selection of Chairman, National Book Trust (NBT), who is appointed by the Central Government on its discretion. A Search-cum-Selection Committee consisting of eminent persons had been constituted for suggesting a panel of suitable names for consideration of the government for this position.

According to the Recruitment Rules, Director, NBT is recruited by selection through open advertisement for five years in the first instance, renewable on the recommendations of the Executive Committee for one or more terms without repeating the process of selection, or by deputation. The appointment/renewal of contract is subject to approval of the Government of India.

Non-Provincialised L.P. Schools in Assam

948. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-provincialise L.P. schools in Assam;

(b) the steps being taken to provincialise those schools; and

(c) whether the Union Government would make any specific policy to take up those schools for provincialisation during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The information is not centrally maintained. However, Non-provincialised Lower Primary (L.P.) schools are not covered under the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. There is no provision to set up L.P. level Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas under Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme in the country including in Assam. Kendriya